

Message Text

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44

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

EPA-04 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04

SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 DHA-02 ERDE-00 HEW-06 /107 W

----- 122514

O R 231400Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9012

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 11893

FOR OES/L. GRANT

DEPT PASS TO EPA/F. GREEN.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, IT

SUBJ: EXPLOSION OF LETHAL GAS IN LOMBARDY

1. MINISTRY OF HEALTH URGENTLY REQUESTS COUNSEL CONCERNING NECESSARY STEPS TO CONFINE AND LIMIT EXPOSURE TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS OF TWO KILOGRAM OF TETRACHLORO DIBENZO PARA DIOXINE (TCDD) WHICH WAS RELEASED FROM CONTAINER BY EXPLOSION IN WAREHOUSE OF SWISS SUBSIDIARY ICMESA OF GIVAUDAN OF ZURICH. INSTEAD OF NORMAL CONTENT OF FIVE GRAMS FOR EACH TON OF PRODUCT, TWO KILOGRAMS, AS NOTED ABOVE, WERE PRESENT (IN 500 KILOGRAMS OF THE PRODUCT). THE EXPLOSION HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

A. A DENSE CLOUD OF THE GAS HWS SETTLED IN THE SUBURB OD MEDA, ABOUT 25 TO EP KM NORTH OF MILAN.

B. SINCE THE GAS IS OF HIGH TOXICITY WITH SERIOUS EFFECTS ON LIVER, SKIN, DIGESTIVE MECHANISM AND GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MICE AND REBBITS, SEVERAL PEOPLE (27) HAVE ALREADY BEEN

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HOSPITALIZED WITH SYMPTOMS OF NAUSEA, VOMIT, HEADACHES, SKIN

REDDENING, AND SEVERAL ANIMALS HAVE DIED. HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE
DECIDED THAT ALL ANIMALS IN THE EFFECTED AREA WILL BE DESTROYED.

C. PUBLIC REACTION IS SUCH THAT THE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF THE FIRM HAVE BEEN JAILED.VOLPE

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